[Translation]

Pollution in Narmada River

*85. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories causing pollution in the water of the Narmada river;

(b) the steps taken by the Central Government to prevent the pollution in the Narmada river so far;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make the entire water of the Narmada free from pollution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The river Narmada originates from Amarkantak district in Madhya Pradesh and after passing through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat meets the Gulf of Khambat. According to the report received from the Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board, the river does not receive trade effluents in Maharashtra. As per the report received from the Madhya Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, there are a total of 20 factories located in the catchment area of the river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh and there is no regular discharge from any of these units into the river directly. However, the municipal sewage of Jabalpur is discharged into the river without any treatment. According to the report received from the Central Pollution Control Board, there are two grossly polluting industries in Ankleshwar and two large Industrial Estates, one in Ankleshwar and the other in Panoli which are reported to be polluting the river Narmada in Gujarat. The effluent treatment plants in the two individual industries are not reported to be operating satisfactorily. State Pollution Control Board has reported that one Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) has been set up for treating the effluent discharged by about 100 small scale industries of Ankleshwar.

(b) to (d) Directions have been issued by the Central Pollution Control Board on 14.7.1997 under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to the State Pollution Control Boards to issue notices to the defaulting industries for setting up effluent treatment plants within three months failing which closure notice shall be issued to such defaulting units. In order to control pollution of the river from municipal sewage at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, the Government have approved a pollution abatement programme of river Narmada under the National river Conservation Plant at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.57 crore.

[English]

Buffer Stock Norms

*86. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government despite their optimistic projection of foodgrains of 198.17 million tonne in 1996-97, will be able to meet the buffer stock norms;

(b) if not the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the principal commodities like wheat and rice fall short of the buffer stock norms;

(d) whether the Government have decided to import these commodities; and

(e) if so, the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) Based on current supply plan estimates we shall be meeting the buffer stock norms in respect of rice as on 1.10.1997, and in respect of wheat as on 1.4.1998.

(d) and (e) Government, decided to import through STC upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat each during 1996-97 and 1997-98, of which a quantity of 17.51 lakh tonnes has already been received till May, 1997. The STC has contracted for import of another quantity of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat which is likely to be received before March, 1998.

Three-Tier Pricing System Under Revamped Public Distribution System

*87. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced yet another tier of foodgrains pricing under the Revamped Public Distribution System in addition to the already announced dual pricing system for the poor and the non-poor, making it a three-tiered pricing structure: